

# Proposed Festival Beach Food Forest Plan

Urban Forestry Board Meeting  
May 21, 2014



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# Proposed Site Location

City of Austin PARD land on the south side of the Festival Beach Community Garden



# Proposed Site Plan



## Plant Guilds:

Each location around the food forest will have specific plant guilds. Guilds are groupings of plants and other components that have a symbiotic relationship which in turn builds a larger whole community or micro ecosystem all working together for optimum performance. Plants with soils, microbes, insects, birds and other wildlife contribute to a whole system producing food or supporting food production.

## The Community Spiral:

The spiral is a central organizing metaphor for our community; our message of fresh, local, healthy food, spiraling outward to embrace our whole community. Spread outward to touch our neighbors. Ever-spiraling outward to spark new initiatives of food security and strengthening community bonds.

The spiral will take on many forms from archways and gateways to seat walls and patterns on the ground. Different sections will have different characters as differing ideas or groups dedicate themselves and their stories to the spiral sections.

## Rainwater Harvesting:

Four cisterns are located around the spiral for storing rainwater. When the RBJ redevelopment occurs, it is our sincere hope that this project will benefit from rainwater capture from RBJ roof surfaces. The spiral in this section will have a continuous aqueduct that will fill all four cisterns in the rainy season to be used for irrigation throughout the year.

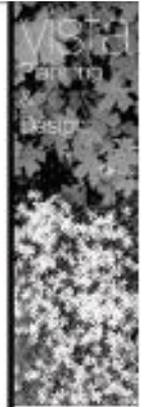
## The Community Garden Shed:

Our community envisions a multi-purposed structure that will be located on the boundary between the existing Festival Beach Community Garden and the Food Forest. The building will be symbolic in that we are reaching out to the community garden with a new facility for our shared use. We share our resources; we share our water.

We are neighbors, brothers and sisters in celebrating the bounty of the earth.

## Light & Shade:

A variety of micro-climates are necessary including varying amounts of sunlight that reaches into a garden. The 1st phase will be planted with many trees and being young trees, there will be plenty of light allowing for sun-loving plants to thrive. As time passes and trees grow providing more shade, the sun-loving plants will migrate or transplant to later phases toward the RBJ redevelopment.



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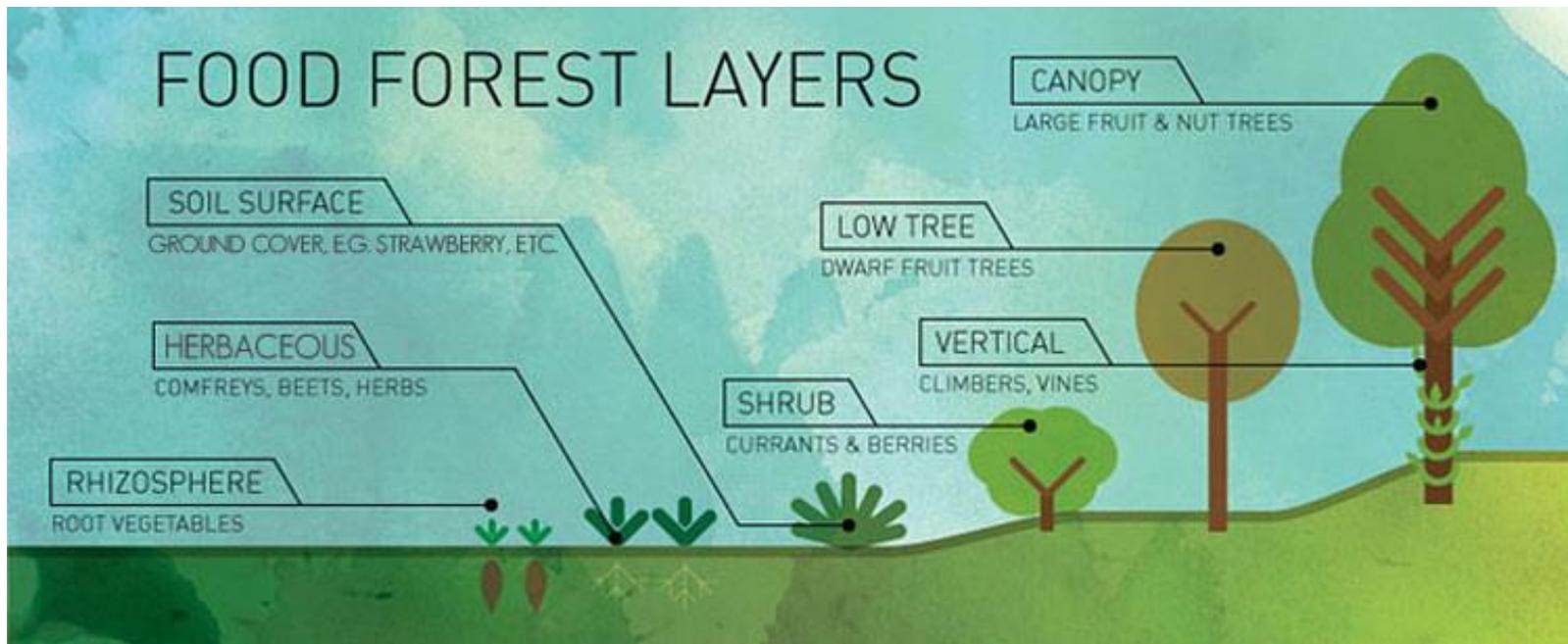


Festival Beach Food Forest  
 Development & Maintenance  
 ERM Forest 2022  
 in partnership with the Vista Planning & Design  
 and Festival Beach Community Garden



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# Multiple Layers



# Application and Plan

- Team submitted application to the Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens program Jan. 2014
- 14 members of steering committee listed as committed forest maintenance
- All gardening participants will become Food Forest Stewards (with signed agreement)
- Plan to hire two staff members to manage site (liaise with City, implement permaculture design, manage volunteers)

# Application and Plan

- Food forest would be open to the general public
- Connection to Festival Beach Community Garden (sharing same fenceline)
- Plan is to “share the harvest” by year 2022, when mature fruit and nut trees will be available for forage

# Stakeholder Meeting

- On April 14, 2014 PARD staff hosted a pre-submittal meeting with the food forest team.
- The food forest team presented their preliminary plan to city staff from Urban Forestry, Grounds Maintenance, Watershed Protection, Economic Development and PARD Planning and Development.

# Maintenance Concerns

- Specific plant list
- How long will trees/plants be irrigated?
- Cost for installation and maintenance
- What is the estimated water use?
- Plan for responsibility if food forest is neglected?  
Plan for removal?
- What are park rules about harvesting from trees?
- Public access
- Highway pollutant filter

# Next Steps

- Council votes on the entire Holly Shores Master Plan May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at 7 pm
- Food Forest may proceed separately
- PARD will schedule a follow-up meeting with the food forest team after the May 22, 2014 City Council meeting

# Next Steps - Permitting

- Cannot use standard Community Garden License Agreement
- Parkland Improvement Agreement including operations and maintenance between the Food Forest/East Feast Team and PARD
- Phasing plan might need a site plan permit, and perhaps even a General Permit because it is on parkland



Thank You!

Any Questions?

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